

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING TONKA SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 9, 2018

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnetonka High School boys swimming and diving team on its state championship. It's the second consecutive championship for the Skippers, who won their first state championship in 1978 and have taken home the state title nine times since. After winning two individual events and one relay, Minnetonka put up an impressive 217.5 points—beating out Shakopee who was able to tally just 181 points. It's their first back-to-back title since 1997.

I want to recognize Senior Jack Dahlgren for winning first place and setting new state records in both the 200 Free and 100 backstroke. I also want to commend John Shelstad for winning the 200 IM and Erik Gessner for his victory in the 100 butterfly. A special congratulations goes out to the 200 meter free-style relay team of Erik Gessner, Michael Shelstad, Isaac Alberts and John Shelstad for taking first place home for the Skippers.

Mr. Speaker, swimming and diving is a sport that takes endurance, extensive training and poise. It's also important to recognize that these student athletes work hard in the classroom as well. Congratulations to Head Coach Dan Berne, the coaching staff, the parents, the fans and the entire swim and dive team on being state champs.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANCIS WHITTY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 9, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Francis Whitty as he completes his term as Department Commander of the Massachusetts Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Frank was born in Roslindale, Massachusetts. After graduating high school in 1962 Frank went on to have a successful banking career, working at State Street Bank in Boston as well as at the Federal Reserve. He later moved to Brockton to settle down and raise a family with his wife Mary.

Shortly after President Kennedy was assassinated, Frank enlisted in the Navy and proudly served in the Submarine Service on board the USS *Piper* (SS409) until 1967. Frank was an early member of the United States Submarine Veterans and rose to the office of National Commander. This was just the start of his service to our country and our veterans.

Inspired by his uncle Eddie, a WWII veteran in the 10th Mountain Division, Frank used the

help of the DAV and went on to become a member of their Brockton Chapter 76 where he was elected Chapter Commander. He served two terms in this position at a time when the public was far less supportive of veterans. Frank spearheaded initiatives to gather support to release prisoners of war in Vietnam and to account for soldiers Missing in Action. He led his chapter of the DAV to become a staple in the Brockton community, very much like Frank himself.

This past year, Frank served as Department Commander of the Massachusetts DAV and will now be completing his term. According to Frank, one of his biggest accomplishments during his years of service has been expanding the DAV's outreach to include services to incarcerated veterans and better serve the community at large in Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Frank Whitty for his service and dedication to his community and country. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his work and in wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING EDWARD McLAUGHLIN

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 9, 2018

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward McLaughlin, military historian, for his dedicated voluntary service to our veteran community.

Edward McLaughlin has dedicated the last four years researching and cataloging the interment of over 1,000 Civil War Soldiers and Sailors of African American descent, who are buried at Philadelphia National Cemetery, within the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania. They were soldiers of the United States Colored Troops, a fierce force of nearly 180,000 men that made up one-tenth of the Union Army during the Civil War.

As a volunteer historian, Edward McLaughlin spent a year downloading approx. 25,000 records, mostly from the National Archives as well as other sources. He then copied, sorted, and compartmentalized these records, and then had the information transferred into a book form. Edward McLaughlin's research contains a 2 to 5-line history of all the African American Civil War soldiers and sailors at the cemetery, photographs of each headstone, as well as a name to plot number. What makes this achievement all the more remarkable is the fact that this history had never been uncovered, until now.

After a study of the information for the first year, Edward McLaughlin realized that a storyboard needed to be erected to tell this story and went on a local speaking tour at libraries, historical societies and veteran's groups requesting letters of support for a story board, of which I lent my support. Because of his efforts, the National Cemetery Administra-

tion has constructed and installed a storyboard dedicated to the memory of the United States Colored Troops interned at Philadelphia National Cemetery. The storyboard is installed in Section C, which along with the bottom half of Section G, contains the burial plots of the United States Colored Troops interned at Philadelphia National Cemetery.

This storyboard joins three others that were installed three years ago at the Philadelphia National Cemetery. One chronicles the 155-year history of the cemetery, founded to receive the bodies of Civil War veterans already interred in nearby graveyards. The other two are dedicated to soldiers buried there: Valley Forge native Galusha Pennypacker, at 20, the youngest-ever brigadier general, and 184 Confederate soldiers wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg who died at nearby hospitals. Without Edward McLaughlin's expertise and tireless efforts, this proud chapter in American History would surely have been lost.

The 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Edward McLaughlin for his dedicated support and service to the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

OATH OF CITIZENSHIP ON APRIL 13, 2018

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 9, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on April 13, 2018. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On April 13, 2018, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Maria Rebolloso, Pablo Serrano, Armando Martinez, Cristina Olivia Vasquez, Ricardo Rivera, Alejandra Sandoval, Yang-Yi Avia Lin Shemesh, Juliana Isabel Mercado Velazquez, Leticia Luna Swinson, Benjamin Tovar Lopez, Angelica Magallon de Amezcua, Mercedes Lorenzo de Diaz, Haroldas Vysniauskas, Octavia Guijosa Granados, Manoel Jacques Etienne Couder, Alejandrina Perez de Davila, Mohammad Yousef Mustafa Hijaz, Ma del Carmen

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